

Grandview Wastewater Infrastructure Needs



Figure 1: The City of Grandview is located near the eastern border of Yakima County in south-central Washington State.

More information

Ecology spoke with the City of Grandview to gather a representative example of small community wastewater infrastructure needs.

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ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Emma Hanson (details above), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility> for relay service or TTY call 711 or (877) 833-6341.

Community vision

In the heart of the Yakima Valley, the community's "grand view" is that of both Mount Rainier and Mount Adams to the west, and the Rattlesnake Hills and Horse Heaven Hills to the north and south, respectively. The City's current population is 11,230 residents.

Grandview has an average of 300 days of sun per year, supporting agriculture and outdoor recreation. Grandview's economy is agriculture based, with production supported by processing plants and cold storage facilities.

The City envisions growing their small community with an alive downtown, livable neighborhoods with quality homes, and a strong, balanced economy. The City plans to work with the Port of Grandview and Yakima County Development Association to build their industrial base and workforce. The City will seek industries compatible with the area's agricultural activities and which support existing industries.

Existing wastewater infrastructure

The City's mission is to create a financially sustainable city and provide cost effective municipal services. The City regularly assesses infrastructure needs and updates their Capital Facility Plan to ensure improvements are in place to meet desired growth and related needs. The City's General Sewer Plan was last amended in October 2017, and they are currently updating an engineering report due in 2020.

Needed wastewater infrastructure

The City estimates costs of about \$15.7 million, over the next two to three years, to meet their wastewater infrastructure needs. To assist the City beyond funding, Ecology can also provide timely review of documents and construction plans.

The City's highest priority is to address the groundwater contamination beneath their wastewater treatment plant. An engineering report identified needed improvements like increased lagoon aeration, constructing another lagoon, and increased treatment for discharge to the Yakima River.

The estimated cost to meet this need is \$14 million, and the City has been financially planning to pay for construction loans. The City hopes to begin design in 2021 and construction in 2022.

The next important need to address is the unlined sludge drying beds which can leach contaminants into the soil. An evaluation of alternatives was completed. The cost-effective option is to build paved drying beds with leachate collection. The estimated cost to meet this need is \$1.2 million and the City wants to begin design and construction in 2021.

The lowest priority to address is the lack of a redundant headworks screen. The City needs to install a second mechanical headworks screen. The estimated cost to meet this need is \$500,000, with a plan to install in 2022.

Fiscal standing

The City uses a long-range financial plan to assess debt service and financing needs. The plan looks 10 years into the future and identifies capital improvements and funding strategies to determine the necessary revenue. This look-ahead approach allows the Council to make informed decisions regarding rates and adjust to meet expenses.

Expenses

The City is committed to budgeting wisely and living within their means – never spending more than received and building reserves for future capital improvements and unknown circumstances. Costs associated with inflation, operation, maintenance, replacement, and debt are examined each year as part of the City budget process. Operation and maintenance costs are based on historical needs.

The City established a \$250,000 annual budget line item to address large equipment replacement needs. Replacement costs are based on needs and equipment life as identified in collaboration with personnel.

Debt To	Debt For	Debt Amount	Annual Payment Expense	Debt Paid Off (Estimated Year)
USDA	Wastewater project – improvements to the wastewater treatment plant influent lift station	\$3.3 million	\$133,700	2054
Ecology	Wastewater project – collection system upgrades	\$4.2 million	Unknown	2037

Table 1: Grandview's estimated debt.

Funding sources

Approximately \$660,000 in retired debt service is available to repay loans on the needed infrastructure, but low interest loans and principal forgiveness will be needed to keep costs reasonable. The City strives to seek outside funding so taxes and utility costs remain competitive with other Yakima Valley communities.

The current sewer base rate is \$35.32, with excess rates applied for usage over 5,000 gallons of water per month. In anticipation of a major project to replace the sewer between Grandview and the Yakima River and \$14 million in treatment plant improvements, sewer rates increased 4% in 2018 and 3% in 2019. Based on an extensive rate study, costs for treatment were determined and rates were set accordingly. Since the original analysis, no major changes have been made in the treatment process, so unit costs have been consistent, and rates have been adjusted annually to account for increased expenses.

Public involvement

The City engages its citizens, partners with the community, and works with other governments for the betterment of the Grandview community. To support local businesses and build a more diverse commercial economic base, the City meets regularly with local business and industries to discuss their plans and needs. The City work hard to seek funding to address specific infrastructure needs, generating a sense of neighborhood pride, and building the quality of life through associated improvements to private property.